



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

closed Godfroy was chosen a war chief without a dissenting voice. Gabriel Godfroy's grandfather was a full-blooded Frenchman, and came of stock of which heroes are born. He was a descendant of Godfrey of Bouillon, chief leader of the first crusade, and distinguished for his martial exploits. He headed the French force sent out against the infidels for the recovery of the holy sepulchre, and took the city of Jerusalem. He was offered, by his army, the sovereignty of the city, but refused, saying he would never accept a crown of gold in a city where his Savior had worn a crown of thorns."

WILLIAM DAWSON, SHOEMAKER-ASTRONOMER.

Mrs. M. E. S. Charles writes in the Indianapolis News of February 13, 1901:

"At the age of twenty, William Dawson, of Spiceland, began keeping a record of the weather. In the beginning, he did not take the temperature daily, but a little later he did so, taking it three times a day—at 7 a. m., 2 p. m. and 9 p. m. This he kept up for a period of about thirty-five years.

"The dream of his early life was the possession of a telescope of four or five inches in diameter. But it was not till 1867 that he could spare the two or three hundred dollars, earned at his trade as a shoemaker, that was required to obtain the glasses and parts that he could not make.

"After a good deal of correspondence with different astronomers, he set to work. He was well aware that a good object glass was the main thing, and he sent to Boston for one four and a half inches in diameter. This cost \$185. In addition he ordered three eye-pieces, which cost \$5 each. In writing of this, he said: 'About the most gratifying occasion of my life was the arrival and sight of glasses for a six-foot achromatic telescope.'

"While the glasses were on the way he procured a zinc tube made larger at one end than the other, in which he placed his treasures upon their arrival, and although it was snowing, he soon had the satisfaction of testing the quality of the glasses and his workmanship upon surrounding objects, which he could see distinctly a mile or more away.

"He succeeded in mounting his telescope satisfactorily, and in a manner that admitted of its being turned in any direction. He said: 'Much study and work were done before all this was completed, and considerable shoemaking had to be done, too. But it was highly gratifying to set the telescope in range with a star then see a large "diamond in the sky" at noonday.'

"Mr. Dawson was one of the most conscientious of men in his dealings with his fellow-men, and painstaking to the last degree in his astronomical calculations. So accurate was he in his work that his calculations and observations were accepted at the Lick Observatory.

"He was much interested in the controversy between astronomy and religion. He did not want to detract one iota from the great benefits of the church in all ages, but he frequently pointed out in articles written for publication, the persecutions which the sciences of geography and astronomy have endured.

"His contributions to the press were many and varied, touching upon almost every phase of astronomical phenomena. In the *American Meteorological Journal* for 1884 was printed a series of articles containing tables of barometric observations for the period between 1861 and 1884.

"The *Kansas City Review of Science and Industry*, for August, 1883, contains the eclipses from 1800 to 1900, as calculated by Mr. Dawson. He wrote frequently for the Indianapolis papers for a period of years; occasionally for some Eastern papers, as well as for distinctively scientific periodicals.

"Besides being practical he saw the beauty of the relation of the heavenly bodies to each other and to the needs of humanity, and could express his thoughts in beautiful language. He was an intelligent talker, especially when conversing upon the subject of astronomy. Many a student of Spiceland Academy has taken advantage of his obliging disposition and while waiting for him to mend a shoe, ply him with questions about the sun, moon and stars, or some kindred topic.

"In 1878 he built a new residence and on the second story of this house he constructed a dome about twelve feet in diameter, from his own plans, in which he mounted his telescope. This

dome was made to revolve, so that by a slight push of the hand the telescope could be turned upon any part of the heavens.

"Mr. Dawson began his observations of the sun in March, 1867, and for several days saw no spots, and but few were seen until about the middle of September, when a group of fifteen appeared near the sun's center. From this time the number and size of the spots increased up to August, 1872. He generally used a magnifying power of one hundred diameters and on one occasion in the month of August, 1872, saw 640 sunspots; changing to a 200 eyepiece he counted the astonishing number of 950 spots. But a change soon followed this display. The number gradually grew less and the spots smaller until 1878, when often none were seen for days. This was near the end of the period of recurrence, which is eleven years. The size of the spots varies much, but to be seen as a mere speck, they must have a diameter of four or five hundred miles. The largest one seen by him he calculated to be 30,000 miles long and 12,000 wide.

"This pioneer astronomer died August 12, 1890, leaving the astronomic world richer for his having lived in it."